

CLAIMS

What I Claim Is:

5 1. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads operating from an aerial lift in an elevated environment in proximity to a structure, said method including the steps of:

 connecting a safety lanyard apparatus to the load, said lanyard apparatus having first and second lanyards, each of said first and second lanyards terminating in a
10 connectable free end;

 said first lanyard segment including a releasable mechanical connection capable of being activated from a normally connected configuration wherein said free end thereof is securely connected thereto, to a disconnected configuration wherein said free end thereof is disconnected therefrom;

15 means for activating said releasable mechanical connection thereby activating said mechanical connection from said connected configuration to said disconnected configuration in response to an a predetermined tensional force applied to said first and second lanyard free ends;

 connecting said first lanyard connectable end to the aerial lift;
20 connecting said second lanyard connectable end to the structure;

 whereby failure of the aerial lift places tensional force on said first and second lanyards thereby triggering said means for activating said means for releasing said first lanyard connectable end such that said first lanyard connectable end is disconnected, whereby the load is supported from the structure by said second lanyard.

2. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads according to claim 1, wherein said means for activating said releasable mechanical connection is disposed on said second lanyard.

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3. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads according to claim 2, wherein said means for activating said releasable mechanical connection includes a frangible mechanical connection frangibly binding two normally spaced lanyard sections in a shortened configuration wherein said two spaced sections are substantially adjacent to each other by said frangible mechanical connection.

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4. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads operating from an aerial lift in an elevated environment in proximity to a secondary structure, said method including the steps of:

15 connecting a safety lanyard apparatus to the load, said safety lanyard apparatus including first and second lanyards, each of said first and second lanyards having one end connected to the load and an opposing connectable end, said first lanyard incorporating a means for releasing said connectable end thereof, said second lanyard including means, responsive to a tensional threshold force, for activating said means for releasing said first lanyard connectable end;

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connecting said first lanyard connectable end to the aerial lift;

elevating the load to a position generally adjacent to a secondary structure;

connecting said second lanyard connectable end to an elevated supporting point on the secondary structure, whereby failure of the aerial lift places a tensional force,

greater than or equal to a predetermined force across said first and second lanyards, thereby activating said means for releasing resulting in the separation of said connectable free end of said first lanyard such that the load remains connected to the secondary structure.

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5. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads according to claim 4, wherein said means for activating said releasable mechanical connection includes a frangible mechanical connection frangibly binding two normally spaced lanyard sections in a shortened configuration wherein said two spaced sections are substantially adjacent to each other by said frangible mechanical connection.

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6. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads according to claim 4, wherein said means for releasing comprises:

a releasable mechanical connection connecting said first lanyard connectable end to the remaining portion of said first lanyard;

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said releasable mechanical connection maintained in a connected configuration wherein said first lanyard connectable free end is connected to said first lanyard until the application of a tensional force exceeding a predetermined threshold value applied to said first and second lanyards causes said means for activating to enable the automatic releasable separation of said first lanyard connectable end.

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7. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads according to claim 5, wherein said means for activating said releasable mechanical

connection means in response to a predetermined tensional force comprises a frangible connection that, upon activation allows for limited extension of said first lanyard, whereby the limited extension of said first lanyard triggers said means for means for releasing the connectable end of said first lanyard.

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8. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads according to claim 7, wherein said frangible connection comprises a pivotal link.

9. A method for providing fall protection for human or non-human loads
10 according to claim 8, wherein said frangible connection includes a hinge.

10. A method for providing fall protection for human and non-human loads operating from an aerial lift in an elevated environment in proximity to a secondary structure, said method including the steps of:

15 connecting a safety lanyard apparatus to the load, said safety lanyard apparatus including first and second lanyards, each of said first and second lanyards having one end connected to the load and an opposing connectable free end, said first lanyard incorporating a means for releasing said connectable free end thereof in response to a predetermined tensional force applied across said first and second lanyards, said second
20 lanyard including means, responsive to a predetermined threshold tensional force, for activating said means for releasing;

connecting said first lanyard connectable free end to the aerial lift;

elevating said load using said aerial lift;

connecting said second lanyard connectable free end to the secondary structure;

whereby failure of the aerial lift resulting in decent of the aerial lift places a tensional force, greater than or equal to a predetermined force, across said first and second lanyards thereby triggering said means for activating said means for releasing
5 resulting in the separation of said connectable free end of said first lanyard from said safety lanyard apparatus thereby leaving said load supportedly connected to said secondary structure by said second lanyard.

11. A method for providing fall protection for human and non-human loads
10 operating from an aerial lift in an elevated environment in proximity to a secondary structure, according to claim 10, further including the steps of:

transferring the load to the secondary structure; and

disconnecting said first lanyard connectable free end from the aerial lift.

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